

NSC BRIEFING

25X1 30 April 1958

ADEN-YEMEN

- I. A general deterioration in the security situation in Aden Colony and Protectorate and on the undefined Aden Protectorate frontier has induced the British to move additional troops to Aden from recently reinforced strategic reserve in East Africa.
- A. About 1,000 troops have joined 1,500 British Regulars and 2,500 British-led native troops engaged in assisting tribal forces in maintaining order in subversion-ridden area which is the size of Arizona.

- II. Major current subversion problems are in Sultanate of Lahej and State of Dhala.

- B. This week British mounted largest military operation in Protectorate in recent years against Yemeni-supported rebels backing anti-British claimant to rule of Dhala. Five hundred British troops ^{relieved} ~~sent to disperse rebels and relieve~~ besieged British political officer and small loyal garrison.

III. Yemeni hostilities with Britain are promoted by Soviets and Egypt through encouraging Yemeni designs on all of Aden and providing military advisers.

- A. Construction of military installations (gun positions and an airfield) on Yemeni coast at south entrance to Red Sea--flanking oil tanker route from Persian Gulf to Western Europe--is proceeding under direction of Soviet engineers.
- B. Yemen's deputy foreign minister also admitted Soviet assistance being received in construction of military installations (including airfields) along disputed Aden Protectorate frontier.

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